



2009 SENATE RESOLUTION 9

January 22, 2010 – Introduced by Senators HANSEN, COWLES, HOLPERIN, PLALE, TAYLOR, LASSA, KEDZIE and DARLING. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** calling on the Wisconsin congressional delegation to take action to
2 grandfather preexisting highway weight limits upon the designation of USH 41
3 as part of the Dwight D. Eisenhower system of interstate and defense
4 highways.

5 Whereas, commercial truck transportation is an essential component of
6 economic activity in every part of this state; and

7 Whereas, any opportunity to haul heavier loads by truck, consistent with the
8 capacity of existing highways to carry those loads without unreasonable highway
9 wear and damage, can add greatly to the efficiency of truck transportation, resulting
10 in a substantial benefit to the state's economy as a whole; and

11 Whereas, recent studies of highway weight limits in Wisconsin and Minnesota
12 show that, under specified circumstances, weight limits can be increased with a net
13 benefit to the economy, when considering both the costs of protecting the highway
14 infrastructure and safety and the benefits that would result from reducing the cost
15 of truck transportation; and

1 Whereas, the state of Wisconsin is engaged in an ongoing effort to upgrade state
2 numbered highways to interstate highway standards, and to convert state numbered
3 highways to interstate highways, one result of which is that the weight limits for
4 divisible loads of certain commodities on a newly designated interstate highway may
5 be less than the weight limits on state numbered highways and local roads in the
6 remainder of the state, thus forcing trucks off the interstates and onto state and local
7 roads to capture the increased efficiency of heavier loads; and

8 Whereas, the diversion of heavy truck traffic onto state and local roads causes
9 a variety of problems, such as safety hazards caused by large trucks driving through
10 small towns or the operation of overweight trucks on local roads that are not policed
11 by law enforcement personnel adequately trained in truck weight enforcement; and

12 Whereas, this problem occurs not just in Wisconsin but also nationwide, as
13 shown by the many individual exemptions to interstate weight limits already
14 adopted by Congress to grandfather preexisting weight limits on portions of state
15 highways that have been converted to interstate highways; and

16 Whereas, Congress enacted legislation, in 23 USC 127, grandfathering certain
17 preexisting state highway weight limits on I 39 from Portage to Wausau after its
18 designation as part of the interstate system under 23 USC 103; now, therefore, be it

19 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the senate of the state of Wisconsin respectfully
20 urges the Wisconsin congressional delegation to use all means at its disposal to
21 create an exception under 23 USC 127 grandfathering preexisting state highway
22 weight limits on USH 41 upon its designation under 23 USC 103 as part of the
23 interstate system; and, be it further

